

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

COUNTRY East Germany REPORT

TOPIC Military Activities of the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div and Headquarters Units

of the XXIX Gds Mtz Rifle Corps

25X1

EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

25X1

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 20 July 1954

25X1

REFERENCES

641000

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED
Information.

25X1

1. On 27 June 1954, summer camp Kindel along Highway No 84 was still occupied by about 3,000 to 4,000 soldiers. Only small-scale exercises were conducted on the training grounds recently. Exercises with up to 60 tanks, which were observed during the last years, were not observed up to that time. Local residents stated, however, that about 40 tanks were parked at the training grounds. Low temporary wooden buildings were erected south of Mainzer Holz Forest. The buildings were said to have been torn down in the camp west of Haina because of airfield construction work.

25X1

25X1

25X1

2. At 2200 on 26 June, 2 troop trains totaling 22 boxcars, 28 flatcars and 26 heavy duty flatcars stood at Mechterstaedt railroad station. It seemed that the troops who arrived on these trains had already departed for the troop training grounds. Twelve guns of 76.2 mm caliber were identified only. A third train carried 22 x 120-mm mortars, 36 to 40 mortars of 82 mm, 40 to 45 trucks, 3 prime movers and 2 field kitchens. The shipment was guarded by a detail of 30 soldiers.

25X1

25X1

3. The kasernes in Jamburg were occupied as follows:

25X1

The Oberlandesgericht (provincial court building) (3387):

Occupant on 26 May and 25 June. Guard personnel was detached from the Barbari Kaserne (3384).

Barbari Kaserne (3384):

25X1

Occupied by about 300 soldiers on 25 June.²

Bismarck Kaserne (3384):

Occupied by about 300 soldiers and several 37-mm AA guns on 25 June.³

25X1

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

SECRET,

- 2 -

25X1

Hindenburg Kaserne (8383):

25X1

Occupied by a guard detail on 26 May and 8 and 25 June.¹ On 8 June, sedan [] occupied by a general and sedan [] occupied by field-grade officers were seen at the installation.

25X1

Bluecher Kaserne (8381):

Still occupied by about 300 soldiers on 8 and 25 June. The unit furnished the guard personnel for the supply depot in the former Heereszeugamt on Kroppental Strasse east of the Hindenburg Kaserne and east of the Teuchern railroad line.

Hubertus Kaserne (8382):

Vacant from 26 May to 25 June.

25X1

4. Between 14 and 28 June, the Infanterie Kaserne (8521), Weissenfels, was still occupied by about 500 soldiers who wore black-bordered red epaulets including 40 percent with artillery insignia, 10 percent with signal insignia and motor transport insignia and 50 percent without insignia. Observed were:

On 14 June: At 1400, 200 soldiers receiving instruction on 2 range finders and demonstration charts on Selauer Strasse.

On 17 June: At 0800, 200 soldiers engaged in firing and instruction at the barracks firing range and 100 soldiers engaged in athletic exercises.

On 21 June: At 0700, 5 groups of about 50 soldiers each with 5 heavy machine guns and rifles engaged in drill and weapon training. At 0730, about 150 soldiers receiving instruction in the barracks yard.

On 24 June: At 1100 4 trucks with 6 soldiers each and 6 x 57-mm AT guns entering the installation.

25X1

5. The Pionier Kaserne (8522), Weissenfels, was at that time still occupied by about 400 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, most of them with tank insignia.

25X1

25X1

6. During the period from 13 to 28 June, the kasernes on either side of Schubert Strasse (3181), Gotha, were occupied as follows:

25X1

The motorized rifle regiment with about 300 soldiers wearing black-bordered red epaulets was stationed east of Schubert Strasse and about 600 soldiers wearing black-bordered red epaulets west of Schubert Strasse. Another unit of about 250 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets including 60 percent with artillery and AT gun insignia, and 40 percent with tank and motor transport insignia was stationed in the barracks section east of Schubert Strasse. A unit of 300 soldiers wearing black-bordered black epaulets and blue-bordered black epaulets with signal insignia was stationed in the two installations:

SECRET

SECRET/

- 3 -

The following details were seen:

On 19 June: At 1400, 200 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with rifles and entrenching tools marching from the garrison training grounds to the installation east of Schubert Strasse.

On 20 June: At 1200, intensive activity in the two installations; 200 soldiers in the kaserne east of Schubert Strasse were about to go on town leave.

On 23 June: At 1700, 15 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia and 60 soldiers wearing black-bordered red epaulets and carrying entrenching tools marching from the training grounds to the kaserne east of Schubert Strasse. Two x 57-mm AT guns were parked in front of a garage.

25X1
25X1

7. At 1200 on 26 June, about 8 x 57-mm and 76.2-mm AT guns and 6 x 122-mm field howitzers were replaced 5 km north of Ohrdruf, 200 meters east of the Gotha-Schwabhausen-Ohrdruf road. About 15 trucks [redacted] and about 130 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets received food rations along the road. At 1600, the AT guns moved toward Gotha while the field howitzers remained in the emplacement.¹

25X1
25X1

1. [redacted] Comment. The bulk of the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div was carried at Kintel troop training grounds in late June. The following units remained at the posts:

25X1

The 172d Gds Mtz Rifle Regt and the 64th AF Bn in Gotha; presumably one battalion each of the 170th Gds Mtz Rifle Regt in Naumburg; the 174th Gds Mtz Rifle Regt in Weissenfels; and elements of the 17th Gds Tank SP Regt in Weissenfels.

According to unconfirmed information, the 67th Engr Bn was loaded in Naumburg for shipment to Kintel on 29 and 30 April. It is possible, that the battalion was transferred to Dessau-Aken in the meantime. The shipments reported in paragraph 2 are unconfirmed.

2. [redacted] Comment. The Hq of the XXIX Mtz Rifle Corps is presumably stationed in Kintel or Lossa. The 27th Gds Sig Bn has not yet left the post.

25X1

3. [redacted] Comment. Since 4 shipments went from Naumburg to Austro and according to a previous report carried the medium AAA Bn of the 498th AAA Regt (SS) of the XXIX Gds Mtz Rifle Corps, it can be concluded that the light AAA battalion of the regiment is still stationed in the kaserne. The address numbers indicate that the high-ranking officers seen in the Bismarck Kaserne on 8 June belong to the Hq Eighth Gds Army. They probably inspected the newly arrived AA guns in the Bismarck Kaserne. This information confirmed the assumption that the observation referred to a new type gun.

25X1

25X1

NODEX

SECRET